

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00135 141242Z  
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5614

S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 0135

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, UY  
SUBJ: MENDEZ LETTER RE OASGA - FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

REF: MONTEVIDEO 0104.

1. I CALLED ON AIR FORCE CINC PALADINI MORNING JAN. 13, TO INSURE THAT THE MILITARY COMMANDERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE OASGA. PALADINI WAS AWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MENDEZ-CARTER LETTER, BUT LISTENED WITH ATTENTION WHEN I DESCRIBED OUR POSITION AND THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR ROCA. ON THE LATTER, I NOTED THAT ROCA'S OFFER TO PERMIT A VISIT BY THE IAHRG WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN THE MENDEZ LETTER, WHICH STRUCK US AS A GOU RETREAT FROM WHAT APPEARED TO BE A MOVE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. PALADINI OBSERVED DRYLY THAT "ROCA HAD EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS."

2. PALADINI THEN INVITED HIS HEIR APPARENT BRIG. BENDAHOAN TO SIT IN ON THE DISCUSSION. BOTH SOUGHT TO ASSURE ME THAT THE GOU WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE IAHRG, BUT RATHER OBJECTED TO SOME OF THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY THE COMMISSION AND TO SOME OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS BECAUSE OF THEIR ALLEGED ANTI-URUGUAYAN BIAS. I RESPONDED THAT THE GENERAL IMPRESSION ABROAD WAS THAT THE GOU WAS  
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ATTACKING THE IAHRG AS AN INSTITUTION. AND ITS ADAMANT REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE IAHRG TO RESOLVE PROCEDURAL AND PERSONAL DIFFERENCES AND TO PERMIT THE IAHRG TO VISIT URUGUAY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO SUPPORT THE GOU'S INVITATION TO HOST THE OASGA. PALADINI AGAIN REITERATED THAT THE GOU HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE COMMISSION AS AN INSTITUTION; THAT INDEED URUGUAY HAD BEEN

A SPONSOR IN ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION. IN HIS VIEW, AND THAT OF BENDAHAN, BAD BLOOD HAD DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF BETWEEN CERTAIN PERSONALITIES ON THE COMMISSION AND WITHIN THE GOU. THIS HAD FESTERED OVER TIME AND LED TO A FIRM ANTI-IAHRC BIAS WITHIN THE GOU. IF THAT WAS THE SITUATION, I OBSERVED, THEN IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON THE GOU, IF IT SOUGHT TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE, TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RESOLVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IAHRC THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. PALADINI ASKED IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP IF THE GOU AGREED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IAHRC DURING THE OASGA IN MAY. HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE MENDEZ LETTER DID WELCOME, "ALL ORGANS" OF THE OAS, WHICH WAS MEANT TO INCLUDE THE IAHRC. I SUGGESTED THAT THE GOU WOULD SHOW BETTER FAITH IF IT TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IAHRC IMMEDIATELY. HE WAS TAKEN BY THE IDEA AS WAS BENDAHAN. THEY THEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN THEMSELVES THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IAHRC, TO PREVENT ANY OF THE BAD BLOOD OF THE PAST FROM HAVING A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE NEW NEGOTIATIONS. THEY MUSED THAT PERHAPS AIR FORCE BRIGADIER BORAD AND TWO PRESTIGIOUS CIVILIANS, (POSSIBLY FORMER FONMIN JAN CARLOS BLANCO AND COUNSELOR OF STATE GARCIA CAPURRO) MIGHT FILL OUT THE SECRET

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DELEGATION. PALADINI CLEARLY RECOGNIZED THAT NEITHER FONMIN ROVIRA NOR ALVARO ALVAREZ SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE DELEGATION. PALADINI SAID HE WOULD CLEAR THE IDEA WITH THE OTHER TWO CINCS AND WITH THE ARMED FORCES POLITICAL COMMISSION, AND THEN WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. HE SAID IT WOULD HELP IF WE COULD AVOID RESPONDING TO THE MENDEZ LETTER UNTIL HE HAD TIME TO SELL THIS SPECIAL DELEGATION IDEA TO HIS COLLEAGUES. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO HOW HE CALCULATED HIS CHANCES, HE SAID "I DON'T THINK I WILL HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH MY MILITARY COLLEAGUES," AND IMPLIED THAT HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY THEN IN CONVINCING THE PRESIDENT TO GO ALONG. I PROMISED TO REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON.

5. I THINK THIS DEVELOPMENT IS WORTH NURTURING. PALADINI APPEARS SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO BREAK THE IMPASSE WITH THE IAHRC. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO COME BACK TO US NEXT WEEK WITH A DEFINITE ANSWER. IF THE GOU DECIDES TO SEND A SPECIAL, HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO REPAIR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE IAHRC AND TO PLAN FOR A VISIT HERE THIS YEAR, WE CAN CHALK IT UP AS AN IMPORTANT PLUS. UNDER

THE CIRCUMSTANCES I RECOMMEND THAT WE HOLD OFF SENDING  
AN ANSWER TO THE MENDEZ LETTER UNTIL WE GET A PROGRESS  
REPORT FROM PALADINI.  
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**Draft Date:** 14 jan 1978  
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